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A

POEM

To the Memory of

EDMUND SHEFFIELD,

Duke of BUCKINGHAM.

A

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To the Memory of

EDMUND SHEFFIELD,

DUKE of *BUCKINGHAM,*

Duke and Marquess of NORMANBY,

Earl of MULGRAVE, and Baron of BUTTERWICK.

By *JOHN BOYLE*, Earl of ORRERY.

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M DCC XLI.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

To Her GRACE

KATHERINE,

Dutchefs of *Buckingham,*

Occafioned by the DEATH

OF THE

DUKE Her SON.

A

POEM

Sacred to the MEMORY of

EDMUND SHEFFIELD,

Duke of BUCKINGHAM, &c.

MUST then my Heart, familiar long with Grief,
Still vainly hope, and pant for ſome Relief?

No

No Angel comes with Healing in his Wings,
Nor Time itſelf ſoft Conſolation brings:
What ſhould impair, but lengthens out my Woes,
And ſwells the circling Torrent as it flows:
Points Dangers out, preſents the Proſpect clear,
And ſtill enlarges as it brings it near:
Or, if my Thoughts, on higher Objects bent,
Seek in the Boſom of a Friend Content,
Tranſports a while attend the bleſt Purſuit,
And Pleaſure quickens from the promis'd Fruit;
But when our Souls congenial Flames unite,
And mutual Faith awakens pure Delight;
When in the Haven of each other's Breaſt,
Paſt Cares are lull'd in Dreams of coming Reſt,
A ſudden Wreck enſues, our Hopes are croſt,
And ſunk in Death, are immaturely loſt:
Thus, when fierce Storms ruſh on without Controul,
And Waves on Waves impetuouſly roll;

If the firm Veſſel rides afar from Shore,
The foaming Seas with harmleſs Fury roar:
But driving outward to the wiſh'd-for Land,
Splits on a Rock, or daſhes on the Sand:
Ev'n now, whilſt yet my Wounds freſh ſtreaming bleed,
And mournful Scenes alternately ſucceed,
Whilſt Fancy raiſes to my tortur'd Sight
Forms once belov'd, but doom'd to endleſs Night,
Inexorable Death ſtill onward flies,
And glares Deſtruction with his baneful Eyes;
Youth's opening Flowers before him ſhrink and fade,
And ſick'ning Valour dies, tho' undiſmay'd:
Wiſdom in vain holds forth her aiding Shield,
To his all-piercing Arrows forc'd to yield;
Swift flies the Shaft from his unerring Bow,
Nor SHEFFIELD's Virtues can evade the Blow:
Vanquiſh'd, he ſinks; each fatal Siſter crouds,
And low'ring Skies hang out their blackeſt Clouds;

Around

Around his Head thick circling Vapours fleet,
And all the Death-preſaging Omens meet.
The dreadful Summons dauntleſs he obeys,
Nor earthly Wiſh his Thirſt of Heaven allays;
Nor at his ſure impending Fate repines,
But to the Power that gave, the Life reſigns;
Quick on his roſy Lips an aſhy Pale
Diffus'd its Teint, and Life began to fail;
Yet e're his Soul the ſlacken'd Paſſage broke
Of vanquiſh'd Nature, thus he greatly ſpoke:

" Sickneſs, with all her various ghaſtly Train
" Of with'ring Symptoms and corroding Pain,
" Or ſoon or late by pitying Heav'ns Decree,
" Ordain'd to ſet the tow'ring Spirit free,
" Diſturbs not me; No, nor the Pangs of Death
" Fierce in the Conflict of departing Breath;

" Nor

" Nor for the ſharper Stings of impious Guilt,
" One fearful, baſe, or conſcious Tear is ſpilt:
" But oh! a Mother's Grief! with that I ſtart,
" And feel the Anguiſh that will wring her Heart:
" Soften her Woes, propitious Heaven!" he cry'd,
And breathing filial Sighs and Bleſſings, dy'd.
Illuſtrious Youth, whoſe lateſt Gaſp diſclos'd
The tend'reſt Paſſion with a Mind compos'd,
Whoſe Love from Duty, Reaſon, Goodneſs flow'd,
And long'd to pay the grateful Debt he ow'd:
What glorious Ardour, Virtue unconfin'd,
Diffuſive, great, beneficent and kind,
In that important Hour his Frame forſook,
How chang'd! how pale! how fix'd his manly Look!
Yet comely Gravity, with temper'd Grace,
Still ſweetly ſate upon his youthful Face;
And mild Concern, as if Devotion hung
With her laſt melting Accent on his Tongue;

For

For Virtue often will her Influence ſhed,
And caſt a ſolemn Luſtre o'er the Dead.
The Soul its ſecret Attributes diſplay,
And ſpeaks its Paſſion in the lifeleſs Clay;
Each myſtick Lineament, tho' faint, declare
The native Worth that once reſided there;
An early Wit, by juſteſt Precepts taught,
By Arts improv'd, by ſolid Judgment wrought;
That knew no Folly, and deteſted Ill,
Whoſe Thoughts were great, whoſe Reaſon was his Will:
To higheſt Titles, Honours, Fortunes born,
He only look'd on ſordid Vice with Scorn;
Steady in Youth, reſerv'd, yet not auſtere,
Humane to Failings, but to Crimes ſevere;
Valiant in Arms, *France* ſaw his martial Fire
Kindling where *Berwick*'s did in Blood expire:

But

But Guardian Angels, watchful of his Fate,
Caught him, aſpiring, to a better State;
Mature for Heaven, and crown'd with earthly Fame,
He nobly clos'd the Line from whence he came.
Oh! that the Soul of *Maro* could tranſfuſe
Celeſtial Strength to raiſe my drooping Muſe,
With glowing Raptures warm her trembling Veins,
And with pathetick Numbers tune her Strains,
SHEFFIELD ſhould ſtill in Arms conſpicuous ſhine,
And all his Virtues breathe an Air divine;
His Fame, ſecure from Time or Envy's Rage,
Should ever flouriſh in a nobler Page.
Tho' the brave Youth lies mix'd with ſocial Duſt,
Immortal Laurels ſhall adorn his Buſt;
The Cypreſs ſpread his ever-verdant Bloom,
And *Mantuan* Lillies grace the ſacred Tomb.
But thou, to whoſe diſtinguiſh'd Worth was given
To form a Son, an Off'ring fit for Heaven:

By

By whoſe unweary'd Toil and boundleſs Care,
Maternal Love, and never-ceaſing Prayer,
Life's rugged Path he learn'd with Eaſe to tread,
To bear Death's mighty Shock, yet not to dread;
Whoſe Wiſdom urg'd him like the Lark to riſe,
And, tho' with callow Wings, to reach the Skies;
Bid him to *Fame*'s eternal Temple climb,
Daring in Action as in Senſe ſublime:
Let this conſole Thee, tho' but ſhort the Race,
'Twas run with Ardour, and obtain'd with Grace;
And now, far hence remov'd from mortal Eyes,
He ſits with Seraphs, and enjoys the Prize.

FINIS.

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